

IV. ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION

A. Introduction

The APE was defined in consultation with the Delaware SHPO as the area liable to visual effects from the proposed rehabilitative work on the bridge. Field reconnaissance found that one architectural resource more than 50 years of age stands within the APE, the Brown-Garrett House (Shadowbrook Estate Gatehouse; N-1133). The terrain adjacent to Bridge 88 was surveyed for waterworks associated with the Passmore mill of the late nineteenth century, but none were identified (Plates 1-3). The mill stood approximately one tenth of a mile north of Bridge 88, and in 1938 it was demolished and replaced by the estate's party house. It appears that when the former Passmore property was remade as the Shadowbrook estate during 1938 to 1941, the land was regraded, resulting in the destruction of visible millrace remnants.

In 1993 the larger vicinity of Bridge 88 was the subject of the *Red Clay Valley Scenic River and Highway Study*. This study was conducted by the New Castle County Department of Planning to identify natural, historic, and scenic resources in the Red Clay Creek area, as an element in the county's development of its strategies for growth management and transportation planning. As part of that study, the Brown-Garrett House, referred to as the H. Brown House, N-1133, was evaluated as being eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The study cited the relative rareness in the area of surviving 1½-story historic period dwellings such as the Brown-Garrett House, the architectural distinction embodied in the cornice of sawtooth design, and the house's fine state of preservation, and stated that the house was representative of the contextual theme of Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts (New Castle County Department of Planning 1993:A-26).

Since the Brown-Garrett House (N-1133) has been previously inventoried, a CRS update form was compiled as part of the current investigation. Figure 6 shows the location of the Brown-Garrett House, and a summary description and evaluation of the house appears below. The Brown-Garrett House has been determined eligible for the National Register. The result of its evaluation is summarized in Table 1, at the end of this chapter. The original and supplementary CRS forms are presented in Appendix A, and the Determination of Eligibility form is provided in Appendix B.

B. Brown-Garrett House (Shadowbrook Estate Gatehouse; N-1133)

Constructed circa 1859

Plates 4-8

(CRS forms in Appendix A; Determination of Eligibility form in Appendix B)

Description: Built circa 1859, the 1½-story Brown-Garrett House stands on the northwest side of Snuff Mill Road, set back about 20 feet from the roadside. The house is situated about 200 feet to the northeast of Bridge 88. Since about 1938, the house, which is a rental cottage, has served as the gatehouse for the Shadowbrook estate. (For more information on the history of the house, see Chapter II, Section B, "Site-Specific Historic Context," above.) A stone wall extends from the northeast end of the house to the estate's stone gateway, located about 30 feet northeast of the house. The closest other building associated with the estate, the party house, stands about 500 feet to the northwest of the Brown-Garrett House, which is closely shaded by mature hardwood and evergreen trees.

The Brown-Garrett House was constructed in two sections, both 1½ stories in height, with an L-shaped overall plan. The front section, the original part of the building, is built of fieldstone masonry. The principal or southeast facade is of symmetrical three-bay design. Although the center front entry suggests a center-passage single-pile plan for the front section, it is more likely a hall-parlor plan due to the small size of the



PLATE 1: Bridge 88 in Context, Looking Northeast



PLATE 2: Bridge 88 in Context, Looking Southeast



PLATE 3: View of Adjacent Terrain from Bridge at Southwest End, Looking North

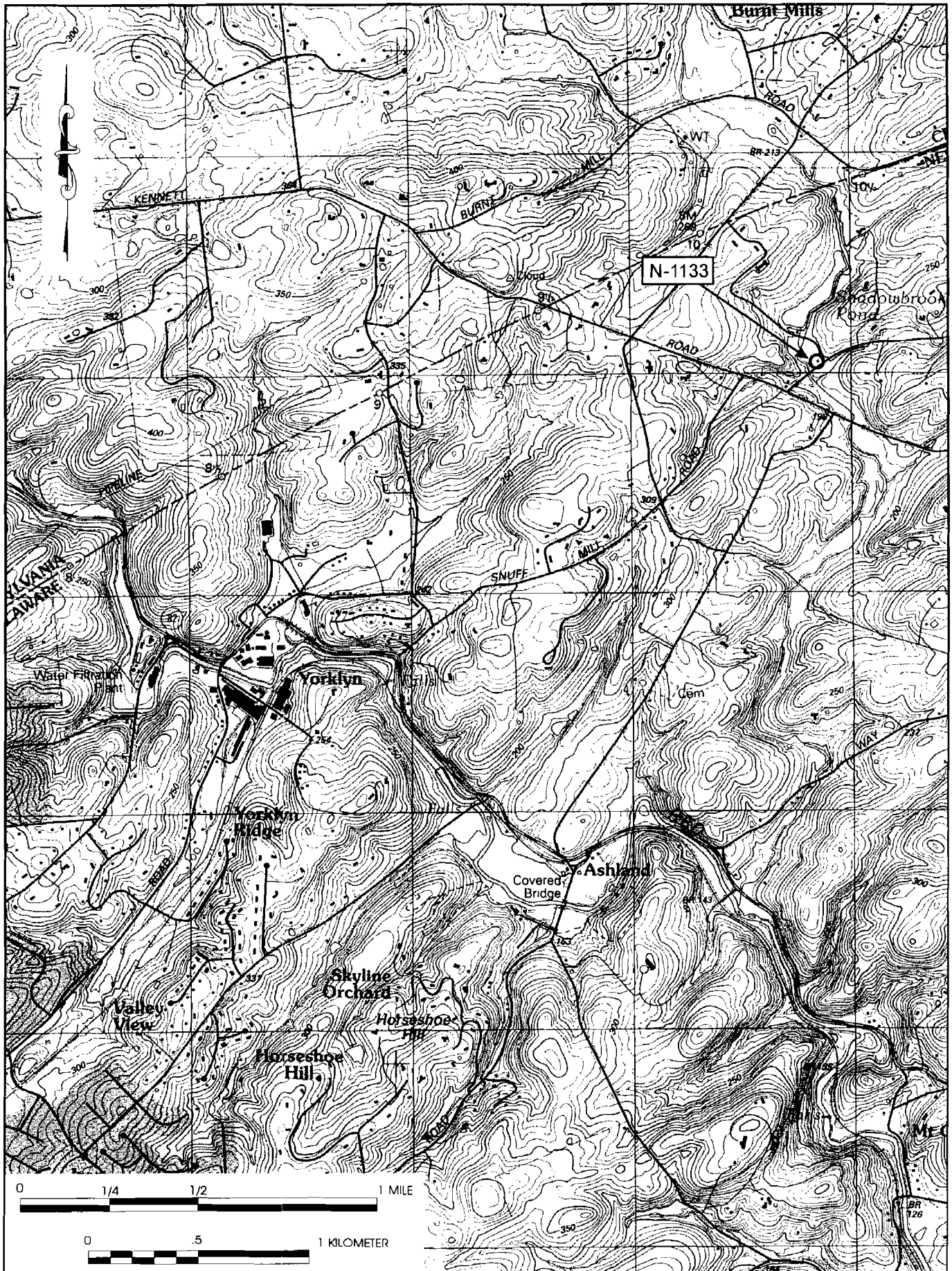


FIGURE 6: Architectural Resources Located Within the Area of Potential Effect

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, Kennett Square, PA-DEL 1993



PLATE 4: Brown-Garrett House (Shadowbrook Estate Gatehouse), Looking West



PLATE 5: Brown-Garrett House in Context, with Bridge 88 to Left Rear, Looking Southwest



PLATE 6: Brown-Garrett House, Rear View, Looking East



PLATE 7: Brown-Garrett House, Detail of
Principal Facade



PLATE 8: Brown-Garrett House, Detail of Cornice

house. There is a front stoop, apparently original, with a shed roof supported by pairs of chamfered posts and pilasters. Stuccoed interior end chimneys are positioned at either end of the front section's gable roof. The overhanging eaves are trimmed with a wooden open cornice of ornate sawtooth design; this motif is repeated on the cornice for the stoop. The window aprons are embellished with a scrollwork design. This decorative woodwork confers a flamboyant note of Gothic Revival style for a small vernacular house.

The plainer weatherboarded frame rear ell was added circa 1930. With its southwest wall set in from the southwest end of the main section, the rear ell has a shed-roofed side porch on the southwest side, situated in the angle against the rear wall of the front section. There is an interior end chimney of brick at the northwest end. The first-story windows and those on the garret level of the rear ell's gable end are wooden, six-over-six, double-hung sash. The other garret windows are three-over-three double-hung sash. A small one-story single-bay frame garage, less than 50 years old, stands just to the rear of the house.

The overall present-day Shadowbrook property is 119 acres in extent and contains additional architectural resources that are located outside the APE for the proposed Bridge 88 rehabilitation. These resources date to the remaking of the property as a rural residential estate from 1938 onward and include the mansion house, a large Colonial Revival-style dwelling completed in 1941 and located approximately 1,650 feet northwest of Bridge 88; the party house, built in 1938 for entertaining and located about 600 feet north of the bridge; and a group of large horse barns, built at various dates from circa 1940 onward and located about 1,700 feet north of the bridge. The history of these estate buildings is separate from the early history of the Brown-Garrett House, and they have been inventoried in the course of previous surveys under the CRS number N-1131. The estate buildings were not surveyed during the present investigation because they are located outside of the project APE.

Applicable Historic Context: Piedmont Zone. Industrialization and Early Urbanization, 1830-1880 ±. Settlement Patterns; Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts.

Evaluation: The Brown-Garrett House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, which applies to resources that merit consideration for their distinctive qualities relating to architecture or engineering. The house, which demonstrates the necessary integrity with regard to its historical appearance, is a picturesque example of an 1850s vernacular dwelling, with woodwork showing stylistic influence from the Gothic Revival movement. This well-preserved house also exhibits its builders' determination to participate in the architectural refinement that was associated with the movement for rural improvement, a trend that was prevalent during the mid-nineteenth century in many prosperous parts of the Middle Atlantic region, such as the Piedmont area of New Castle County. Considering the circumstances of the Brown family as laboring folk, the house might be said to represent acceptance of Andrew Jackson Downing's ideal of the modest, tidy, but attractive cottage that the noted landscaper and reformer prescribed for economically marginal inhabitants of the countryside.

The boundary for the National Register-eligible property consists of the boundary of the original house lot of 1859, which was 1 acre, 10 perches in extent (Figure 7). This boundary is formed in part by Snuff Mill Road to the southeast. The property consists of the small area of lawn surrounding the Brown-Garrett House and an adjacent area of meadow containing some of the meandering course of Burris Run to the west. This land has been associated with the house from its date of original construction, and, with their open unbuilt character, serve as the historic setting of the house. The overall present-day property on which the Brown-Garrett House is located, the Shadowbrook estate, is 119 acres in extent and contains architectural resources that are not associated with the historical significance of the Brown-Garrett House. The metes and bounds for the National Register-eligible property, that is, the 1859 Brown parcel containing 1 acre, 10 perches, are as follows:

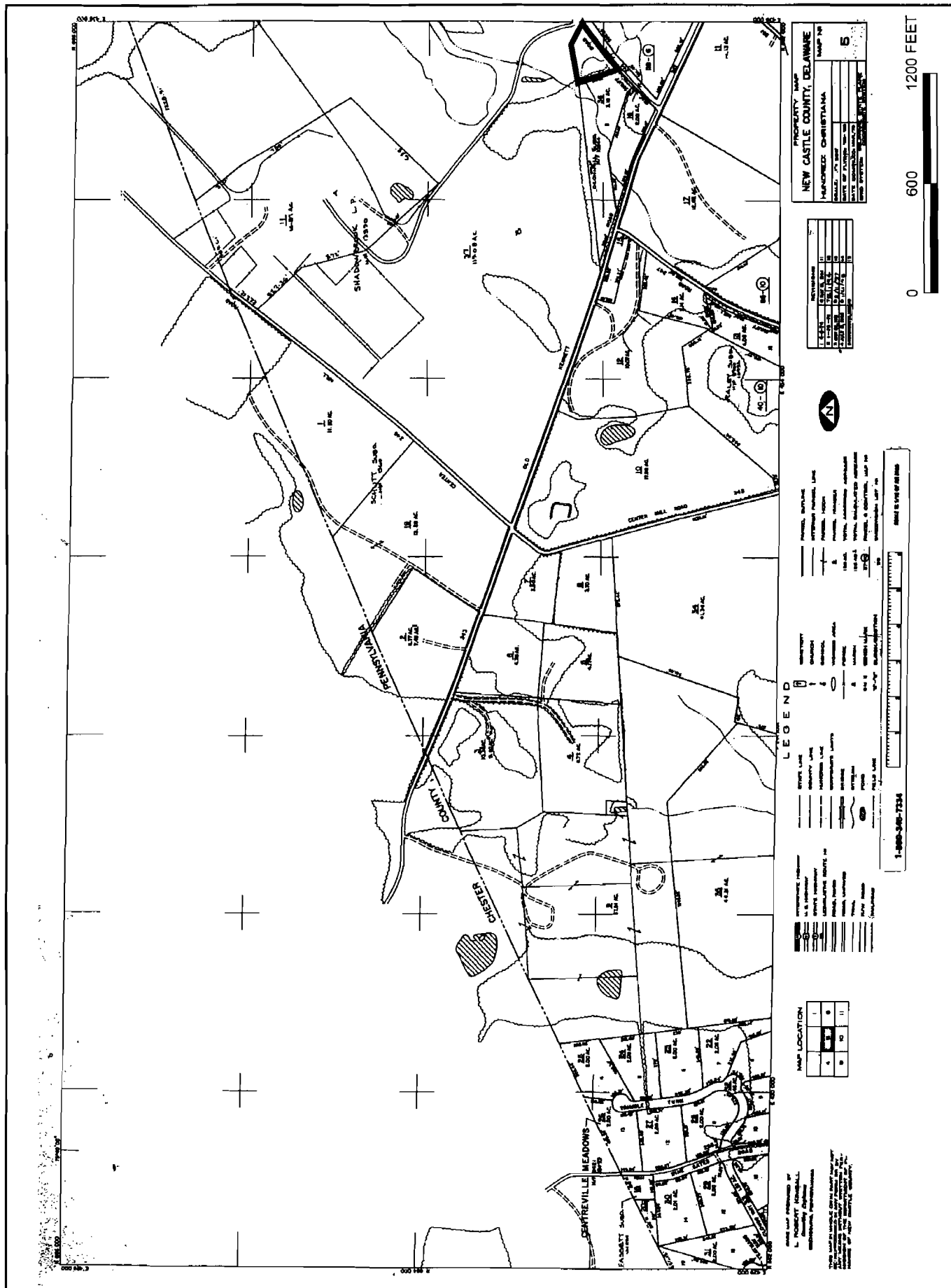


FIGURE 7: Boundary of the Brown-Garrett House National Register-Eligible Property SOURCE: New Castle County Department of Land Use Property Map

Beginning in the middle of Snuff Mill Road
With the said road heading South 57.5 degrees West 363 feet
Then by the adjacent property (Margaret Jean O'Connell in 1978) North 7.5 degrees West
251 feet
Then by the remainder of the Shadowbrook property North 82 degrees East 208
feet, South 71 degrees East 135 feet to the Place of Beginning
[NCCR, Deed F7:416].

Table 1

Architectural Resources Located Within the Area of Potential Effect

Resource Number	Name	Context	Property Type	Integrity	National Register Recommendation
N-1133	Brown-Garrett House	Settlement Patterns; Architecture	Building	Good	Eligible